

New Agricultural Pest for Southern California

Myoporum Thrips (*Klambothrips myopori*)

Distribution: Originated in Australia or New Zealand. Accidentally introduced and now widespread in Southern California. Described as a new species (and under a new genus name) from specimens collected in California.

Hosts: Attacks various species of *Myoporum*.

Damage: Feeds on foliage, causing distortion and inducing leaf-galls (where adults lay eggs and larvae develop) on host plants. *Myoporum* generally tolerates the leaf damage, but heavy infestations can retard the growth, and lead to defoliation and plant death.

Field ID: Adults (about 2-2.5mm) shiny brown to dark brown, with wings and long posterior tube.

Larvae from white to orange color, wingless.



Adults

Photo by Gevork Arakelian



Larva

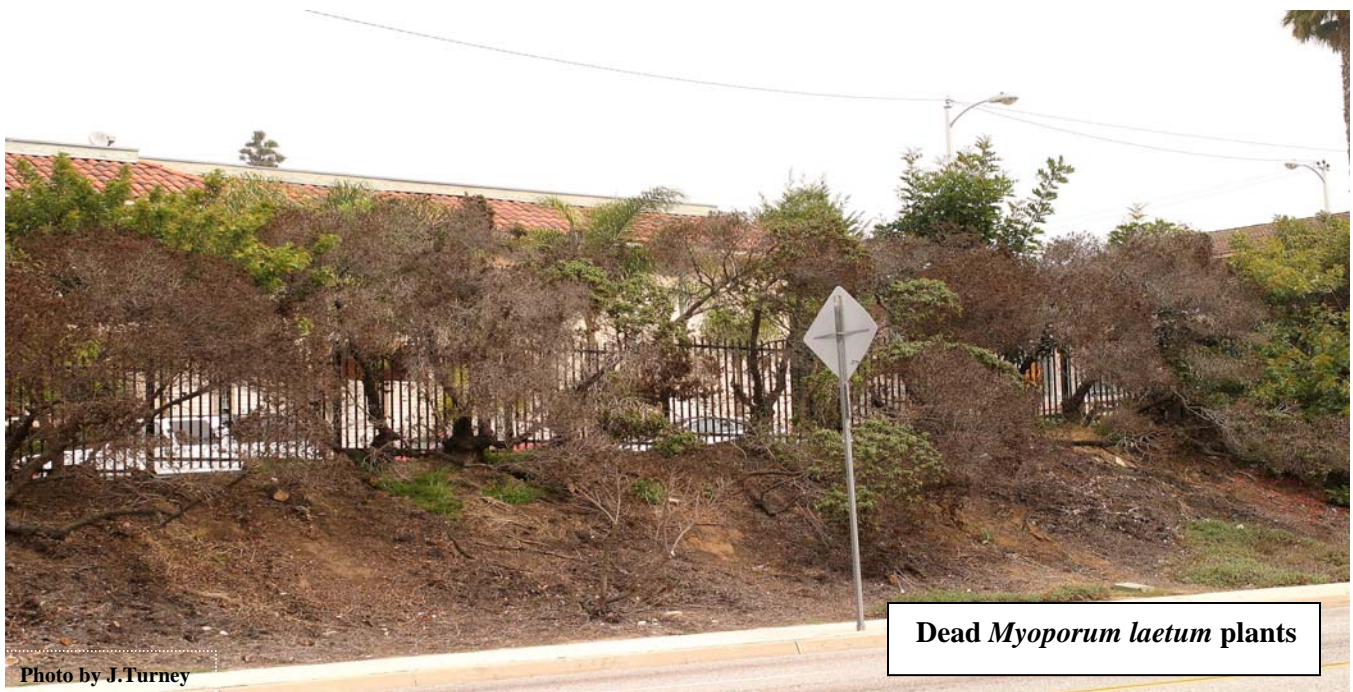
Photo by G. Arakelian



Leaf-galls



Photo by G. Arakelian



Dead *Myoporum laetum* plants

Photo by J. Turney